8 1 MAR 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Travel Policy Committee

John F. Blake FROM

Deputy Director for Administration

Educational Travel Benefits for Dependents SUBJECT

REFERENCE

Memo dtd 17 Mar 76 to DDA fr Chairman, Travel Policy Committee, subj: "Adoption of Annual Student Travel Benefits Available to the

Department of State."

1. I have reviewed the referent memorandum and very much appreciate your views. There were a number of special considerations in this case which resulted in it being handled in a slightly different manner.

The initial authorization for the Department of State
to modify the educational travel benefits was contained in legis-
lation which became effective October 26, 1974. The Department
did not have the funding to implement the new benefits at that time,
but they published the revised instructions with the proviso that
they would not become effective until the Department obtained its
funding for FY 1976. This meant that the benefit was not actually
available until November 1975, but that the regulations were
published and distributed a year in advance.

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4. I certainly agree that there are inequities involved in any system which provides benefits to half of the employees and not to the others, although this has frequently happened as a OLC has in-

cluded this item in the legislative package presented to our Congressional Committees for FY 77. In addition, the Interagency Committee on Benefits and Allowances for Government Employees is seeking legislation which would make the benefit available to all government personnel overseas. I will assure that you are kept advised of developments in this area.

Signed: John F. Blake

John F. Blake

SSA-DDA

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